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Dr. E. K. Kane announced that a new American Expedition was about to proceed to the Arctic Regions in search of Sir John Franklin. Dr. Kane made some remarks explanatory of the geography of the region, and the plan of the proposed search.

The Secretary then read a letter from the Secretary of the Navy, addressed to Dr. Kane, assigning to him the conduct of the Expedition.

The following Resolutions were then offered and unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to confer with Dr. E. K. Kane, Commander of the projected Arctic Exploring Expedition, and communicate whatever information there may be in the possession of the Academy, relating to the collection and preservation of objects of Natural History and to procure such instruments and apparatus as may be necessary for this purpose, and for his use.

Committee :—Dr. Ruschenberger, Dr. Fisher, Mr. W. S. Vaux, Dr. Bridges and Mr. Cassin.

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*December 14th.*

Vice President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Letters were read

From the Secretary of the Trustees of the New York State Library, dated Albany, Dec. 6th, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings, vol. 6, No. 5.

From Dr. H. W. Kennedy, of Buenos Ayres, dated Dec. 4th, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a correspondent.

From the Right Rev. Alonzo Potter, dated Dec. 7th, 1852, acknowledging the receipt of his notice of election as a Correspondent.

Mr. Conrad presented a paper intended for publication in the Journal, entitled "Descriptions of New Fossil Shells of the United States;" which was referred to Dr. Ruschenberger, Dr. Leidy and Mr. Phillips.

Mr. Conrad presented a second paper intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled "Remarks on the Tertiary Strata of St. Domingo, and of Vicksburg, Miss." Referred to the above Committee.

Dr. Woodhouse presented a paper, intended for publication in the Proceedings, describing a new bird, of the genus *Struthus* (Boib.) Referred to Dr. Heerman, Mr. Cassin and Dr. Wilson.

On leave granted, Dr. Ruschenberger, on behalf of the Committee appointed at the last meeting, on the subject of the proposed American Arctic Expedition, presented the following Preamble and Resolutions, which were adopted :

Every manifestation of disposition in the officers of the National and State governments, to encourage the pursuit of truth, by affording facilities to men devoted to scientific investigations, is pleasing to the members of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Aware of the important influence of scientific researches on the prosperity and happiness of the people, they are gratified to observe that the recent report of the Hon. John P. Kennedy, on the condition of the navy, is in tone and spirit cheering to those who are seeking to

expand the limits of human knowledge in any of its branches. While asking Congress to augment the means of instructing young men for different departments of the naval service, he pleads the cause of science in a manner worthy of that enlightened judgment which should characterise all who participate in the direction of nautical affairs. He announces that expeditions to Japan, to the China Seas, to Africa, to the interior of South America, to the Pacific Ocean, and to the Arctic regions, are in progress, or about departing to seek and peacefully open new fields of enterprise; and while he incites the spirit of hardy adventure, he encourages, to the extent of the means in his power, careful observation and scientific observation of natural phenomena. He advocates explorations which promise results beneficial to the agricultural, commercial and manufacturing industries of the country; and for motives apparently analogous to those which animate the members of this institution. Therefore,

*Resolved*, that the Corresponding Secretary be directed to address a letter to the Hon. John P. Kennedy, Secretary of the Navy, expressive of the gratification the Society derives from the disposition he manifests to encourage men engaged in the cultivation of science; a disposition more especially exhibited in the permission given to our fellow member, Dr. E. K. Kane, of the Navy, to undertake the direction and management of an expedition to the north polar regions, to ascertain the fate of Sir John Franklin; an enterprise sustained by the intelligent munificence of Henry Grinnell, Esq; and a few other American gentlemen.

*Resolved*, That science does not limit its benefits and influence to any class or caste of men; being open and free to all alike, it is republican and democratic in its tendency; and therefore, the members of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia may hope that the National Legislature will foster the several expeditions embracing scientific research, by granting such seasonable supplies and substantial encouragement as may be worthy of the most powerful and wealthy republic on the face of the earth.

*Resolved*, That the Corresponding Secretary is hereby instructed to furnish a copy of these resolutions to the President of the Senate of the United States, and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, for the information of Congress, and also to the Secretary of the Navy.

On leave, granted, Mr. Cassin, from the Committee on Dr. Heermann's paper, entitled "Notices of Birds observed in California," reported in favor of publication in the Journal of the Academy, which was adopted.

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*December 21st.*

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Mr. Cassin presented a paper by P. R. Hoy, M. D., of Racine, Wisconsin, intended for publication in the Proceedings, describing two species of Owls, presumed to be new, inhabiting the State of Wisconsin during the winter season. Referred to Mr. Cassin, Prof. Haldeman and Dr. Heermann.

Mr. Conrad presented a paper intended for publication in the Proceedings, entitled, "Notes on Shells, and descriptions of new species." Referred to Dr. Ruschenberger, Dr. Le Conte and Prof. Haldeman.

Dr. Hallowell presented a paper, intended for publication in the Proceedings, "On a new genus and two new species of African